

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 199326

EXDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PARM, FR, US

SUBJECT: FRENCH INTEREST IN CONSULTATIONS ON STRATEGIC
AND ARMS CONTROL ISSUES

REF: PARIS 23286

1. DEPARTMENT NOTES WITH INTEREST DE GUIRINGAUD'S EXPRESSED
DESIRE FOR EXPANDED CONSULTATIONS DURING AND AFTER THE
BARRE VISIT ON STRATEGIC AND ARMS CONTROL ISSUES. WHILE WE
HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT FAIRLY EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF
THESE ISSUES BILATERALLY AND MULTILATERALLY WITH FRANCE ARE
IN TRAIN, WE ARE WILLING TO EXPLORE MEANS TO IMPROVE THESE
EXCHANGES.

2. IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO GOF IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE
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CLARIFICATION ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WHAT LEVEL OF CONSULTATIONS DO THE FRENCH HAVE IN MIND?
DO THEY ENVISAGE FURTHER EXCHANGES ALONG THE LINE OF
PAGNIEZ AND MISTRAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS YEAR,
OR SOMETHING AT A HIGHER LEVEL, OR BOTH?

-- ARE THEY THINKING INITIALLY, AT LEAST, OF A SINGLE EX-
CHANGE ON THESE SUBJECTS, OR A SERIES OF SUCH CONTACTS?

-- IS THE NEED FOR SUCH CONSULTATIONS FELT PRINCIPALLY BY
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, OR IS THE PERCEPTION SHARED BY THE
ELYSEE, MATIGNON, AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE? WHO WOULD BE
THE PRINCIPAL INTERLOCUTORS ON THE FRENCH SIDE?

-- FINALLY, ARE SUCH CONSULTATIONS SOMETHING WHICH THE
FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO INITIATE QUIETLY, OR IS
THIS SOMETHING THEY WOULD LIKE AMONG THE PUBLICLY
ACKNOWLEDGED RESULTS OF BARRE'S VISIT?

3. IN FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH APPROPRIATE FRENCH OFFI-
CIALS, YOU MIGHT NOTE OUR INTEREST IN ANY IDEAS THEY MAY
HAVE FOR IMPROVING CONSULTATIONS ON STRATEGIC AND ARMS
CONTROL ISSUES, AND DRAW THEM OUT ON THE ABOVE POINTS.
RECOGNIZING THE DIFFICULTIES IN CONTACTING FRENCH OFFICIALS
IN AUGUST, WE NEVERTHELESS WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EARLY
CLARIFICATION OF THESE QUESTIONS WHICH CAN BE PROVIDED,
ALONG WITH YOUR VIEWS, AS A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR PREPARA-
TIONS FOR BARRE'S VISIT. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN
YOUR VIEW OF POSSIBLE SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSIONS FRENCH MAY
HAVE IN MIND, E.G., STRATEGIC DOCTRINE, TRENDS IN NATO-WP
FORCES, SALT, MBFR, ETC. WE ASSUME EMPHASIS WOULD BE ON
POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH ISSUES BUT WOULD WELCOME YOUR
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ASSESSMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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